

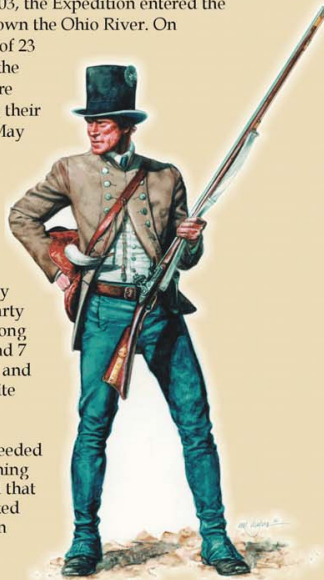
Preparing to Enter the Missouri ...

Introduction: On November 20, 1803, the Expedition entered the Mississippi River after a journey down the Ohio River. On December 12, 1803, after a journey of 23 days, the Expedition encamped at the mouth of Wood River, Illinois where they would remain until beginning their journey up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804.

Up the Missouri...

May 14, 1804: The party departed their winter encampment and entered the Missouri River under sail, camping on the first island they came to. According to Clark, the party consisted of 24 men in the 55-foot long keelboat of 20 oars, one sergeant and 7 French boatmen in the red pirogue and a corporal and 6 soldiers in the white pirogue.

May 15, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 9 miles before camping. After running afoul on several logs Clark decided that the cargo in the boat had to be shifted forward to make the boat heavier in the bow.



Recruited Private - Full Dress
Painting by: © 1999 Michael Haynes

Boating & Alcohol

- The combination of boating and alcohol is illegal and can prove to be deadly. Alcohol impairs judgment and reaction time and decreases your body's ability to defend itself from hypothermia.
- Alcohol greatly increases the risk of dehydration.
- Bring along plenty of drinking water. The rule of thumb is one gallon of water per twenty-four hour period per person.

May 16-21, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 9 miles to St. Charles, a predominantly French village of about 450 people. They remained in St. Charles for six days awaiting the return of Lewis from St. Louis where he was concluding last minute business. While there, the Expedition enjoyed local hospitality, and reloaded the keelboat. The Captains also conducted a court martial of a few of the soldiers who were absent without leave.

May 21, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 3.5 miles to an island and camped; hard rains and wind that night.

May 22, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 18 miles to the mouth of Femme Osage Creek. A party of Kickapoo Indians visited their camp and presented them with four deer for which they received two quarts of whiskey.

...a Cloudy morning rained Violently hard last night ... Capt. Lewis walk on Shore a little & passed a Camp of Kickapoo Indians... Clark

The Return...

September 21, 1806: At 4 p.m. the Expedition arrived at St. Charles. It was Sunday and there were several people on the bank to greet them. The crew fired a three-gun salute.

September 22, 1806: The Expedition proceeded to Fort Bellefontaine (founded in 1805) on Coldwater Creek. They were honored with a salute of guns. They had with them a Mandan Chief, Sheheke, on his way to meet President Jefferson. The captains furnished the chief and his family with clothes purchased from the public store at the fort.

September 23, 1806: The Expedition arrived in St. Louis at noon and fired a salute. The whole town turned out to greet the returning Expedition. They had been gone two years and four months and traveled 8,000 miles since last seeing St. Louis.



Mandan Chief, Sheheke

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Missouri River Access & Public Lands

River Access (Boat Ramps)	Toilets	Camping	River Mile	Owner	Stream
Alton Marina (Fuel)	Y	N	-	City of Alton	Mississippi River
Blanchette Landing	Y	N	27.5	MDC	Missouri River
Columbia Bottom	Y	N	3.4	MDC	Missouri River
Pelican Island (opening 2004)	N	N	10.5	MDC	Missouri River
Piasa Marina (Fuel)	Y	N	-	Pvt Owned Public Use	Mississippi River
Weldon Spring	Y	N	48.6	MDC	Missouri River

Public Lands and Parks	Toilets	Camping	Ownership/ Management
Bellefontaine Cemetery, William Clark's Burial Site	Y	N	City of St. Louis
Boone Crossing	N	N	USFWS
Busch Memorial, Conservation Area	Y	N	MDC
Cahokia Mounds Historic Site	Y	N	IHPA
Fort Bellefontaine County Park	Y	N	St. Louis County
Columbia Bottom, Mitigation Site	Y	N	USACE/MDC
Creve Couer County Park	Y	N	St. Louis County
Cuivre Island, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park	Y	Y	MDNR
Forest Park	Y	N	City of St. Louis
Frontier Park	Y	N	City of St. Charles
Horseshoe Lake State Park	Y	Y	ILDNR
Howell Island, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Illinois State Park	Y	Y	ILDNR
Katy Trail State Park, Biking/Hiking Trail	Y	N	MDNR
Marais Temps Clair, Conservation Area	Y	N	MDC
Missouri Botanical Garden, National Historic Landmark	Y	N	MBG/Shaw Nature Res.
Pelican Island, Natural Area	N	N	MDC
Pere Marquette State Park	Y	Y	ILDNR
Riverlands, Wildlife Refuge	Y	N	USACE
Riverwoods, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Sioux Passage County Park	Y	Y	St. Louis County
Spanish Lake County Park	Y	N	St. Louis County
St. Stanislaus County Park	Y	N	St. Louis County/MDC
Sunset Park, City Park	Y	N	City of Florissant
Edward "Tea" & Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park	Y	N	MDNR
Upper Mississippi, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC
Weldon Spring, Conservation Area	N	N	MDC



Meriwether Lewis' Telescope

Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis
Photo by: David Schultz

